

MR: 30 April 1973

SUBJECT: Report of death case #34 UP Chapter 10, Title 37, USC.

ISSUE: Whether to continue MIA status of Maj Edgar L. Hawkins or to issue a death report.

SUMMARY: Maj Hawkins was reported MIA 20 Sep 65 when his F-105 aircraft crashed into the side of a mountain and exploded in North Vietnam. A resume of the circumstances surrounding the incident is contained in para 1 of the memorandum. The debriefings did not provide any information about Major Hawkins.

NOX: Maj Hawkins is single. His father is deceased. Mother's health is good and she is totally adjusted to the fact son is deceased. On 3 May 73, CAO advised mother will accept status change.

PROMOTION STATUS: Promoted to temp rank of major per DAFSO AB-2995, 1 Sep 68, with DOR 26 Mar 68. Not currently being considered for promotion.

USSDP ACCOUNT: \$166,887.22 as of 31 Mar 73.

RECOMMENDATION: That DPM sign the memorandum authorizing the issuance of a death report in the case of Maj Hawkins.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330



11 MAY 1973

PLY TO: USAFMPC/DPMSC
ATTN OF: RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS 78148

SUBJECT: Report of Death - Case #34

TO: AF/DPM

1. Facts:

a. Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 10, Title 37, United States Code (USC), reconsideration has been given to the facts and circumstances set forth herein in determining the status of Major Edgar L. Hawkins, DATA who was initially reported missing in action on 20 September 1965.

b. In accordance with the provisions of Section 555 of the Title, Major Hawkins was continued in a missing status at the expiration of the initial 12 months' period of absence. Major Hawkins was the pilot of the number two aircraft in a flight of three F-105s on a bombing mission over North Vietnam on 20 September 1965. He made a diving rocket attack on a bridge, and during his pull-up the aircraft began clipping trees, crashed into the side of a mountain, and exploded. Major Hawkins was not observed to leave the aircraft prior to the crash and no parachute or any other sign of his survival was seen in the area.

c. Examination of available records and reports pertaining to the status of Major Hawkins discloses no information that he has been seen or heard from since the beginning of his missing in action status. No accounting for this individual was ever obtained from the North Vietnamese government or her allies, and no information pertaining to him has ever been received from any other source.

2. Discussion: Examination of the information now of record compels the conclusion that no possibility exists for the continued survival of Major Hawkins. This conclusion is based on the fact that circumstances surrounding the emergency were extremely unfavorable for survival and that the officer has not been seen or heard from since the beginning of his missing status. The possibility that

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he was captured previously precluded a definite determination of his status. Since no information has become available to support this possibility, it may no longer be considered a factor. A final determination of his status may now be predicated solely on the known circumstances prevailing when he became missing. Therefore, in light of the evidence now of record, it is conclusively established that Major Hawkins was killed in action on 20 September 1965, the date he was reported missing in action, while participating in Southeast Asian operations.

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3. RECOMMENDATION: Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 556, Title 37, USC, it is recommended that the foregoing information be accepted as an official report of death and that a casualty report be issued stating that Major Edgar L. Hawkins, DATA was killed in action in North Vietnam on 20 September 1965. Death occurred while he was in a pay and duty status, and flying pay status. Evidence of death will be considered to have been received by the Secretary of the Air Force on the date this memorandum is approved.

Signature

Typed Name & Grade

<u>A. W. Gratch</u>	<u>A. W. GRATCH, Colonel, USAF</u>
<u>J. G. Luther</u>	<u>J. G. LUTHER, Colonel, USAF</u>
<u>M. E. Kosa</u>	<u>M. E. KOSA, Colonel, USAF</u>
<u>W. W. Dewey</u>	<u>W. W. DEWEY, Colonel, USAF</u>
<u>B. L. Davis</u>	<u>B. L. DAVIS, Brig Gen, USAF</u>

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List of Source Material

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Under the authority delegated by the Secretary of the Air Force to the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel for Military Personnel, or the officer acting in his stead, the above recommendation is approved.

K. L. Tallman

K. L. TALLMAN
Major General, USAF
Asst DCS/Personnel for MIL Pers